

Student rights campaign misses the point

by Anders Hayden

Despite a draconian "J" grade policy, late exam schedules, and continued lack of student input in course evaluations, last week's Students' Rights Awareness Campaign failed to address these issues. Turnout was low, but organizers

exam, the zero remains, damaging the educational and career prospects for many students.

In her 1987-88 report, Ombudsman Annette Werk commented that "although failing to appear at an exam at the scheduled time is not acceptable, it is, in most cases, simply human error. Is this not a very serious punishment for this type of mistake?" She adds that "many other universities deal with this issue in a more flexible manner, considering each case on its own merits."

Compared to McGill students, those at l'Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM) have far greater rights in determining course evaluations schemes. At UQAM, "the class negotiates with the teacher to determine the evaluation plan," says Chantal Guindon of AGUECAM. "Teachers may try to impose scheduled exams, but students can make sure all exams are take-home."

Concordia students can make travel plans in advance since their calendar indicates exam dates. "You can look at the calendar and know, based on when the course is scheduled, that the exam will be given at a certain time," says Alex McPherson of the Concordia University Students' Association.

Only in cases of major conflict will the schedule be changed. "It's not a guarantee... but it makes it a lot easier if you want to get away and travel."

"I'm surprised you don't have a similar system here," said a visiting student from the University of Alberta.

Diane Young, a Director at Legal Aid, raised some further concerns, in addition to the problem of student awareness about their rights. "Students are often intimidated by professors and faculty members." Although some faculty are "very concerned with fairness and correct procedures, others don't seem to be aware of their limi-

tations."

Young added that although the Senate Committee on Student Grievances seems to be quite fair, the same cannot always be said about faculty committees. She mentioned one case where a student was not allowed to attend his own hearing.

"It would be a good idea to have some sort of university-wide guidelines," said Young.

But according to Battaglia student rights at McGill are adequate—lack of awareness is the real problem. McGill was "the first Canadian university to have a Student Charter," she adds.

McGill Québec, which monitors

francophone rights on campus, is satisfied. "Dawson Hall, the Administration, and SSMU all provide bilingual services," says Danielle Plamondon. "It's nice to see people making an effort." As for writing exams in French, some francophones may still feel it's risky to do so, but "we have no complaints about professors saying no," she said.

Sander Shalinsky, one of the organizers of the Student Rights campaign, adds "students don't realize the power they have in the university. The student charter, certain guidelines, and the Ombudsman are all a result of student pressure."

Québec women's groups demand safe abortions

by Moira Knott

The Québec government has been told to improve abortion services for women.

Le conseil du statut de la femme, a Québec advisory group on women's issues, released a report earlier this month urging the Bourassa government to "improve support services for women con-

fronted with unplanned pregnancy."

The report, drafted after the 1988 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortions, says abortion should not be recriminalized. To do so would increase the number of clandestine clinics and would be "an essential threat to a woman's autonomy and physical integrity."

The council proposed delayed

abortions, performed after twelve weeks of pregnancy, be done in hospitals instead of abortion clinics.

Le Conseil assistant president Thérèse Mailloux said such procedural controls are necessary.

"Medical methods used in delayed abortions are more complicated and it is necessary to use more sophisticated means to preserve the safety of women. These abortions should only be performed in hospitals," she added.

The pro choice Canadian Abortion Rights League calls the recommendation "unnecessarily restrictive."

"Most hospitals don't provide abortions after 12 weeks," said National Coordinator Robin Rowe. "Abortions are performed safely in abortion clinics up to 16 weeks into the pregnancy."

The council stresses making abortion services "accessible in all regions of Québec." Seven out of every ten abortions in Québec are performed in the Montréal area because of a combination of restrictions.

Odèle Loulou, spokesperson for the Morgentaler Clinic in Montréal

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will say the campaign was a success.

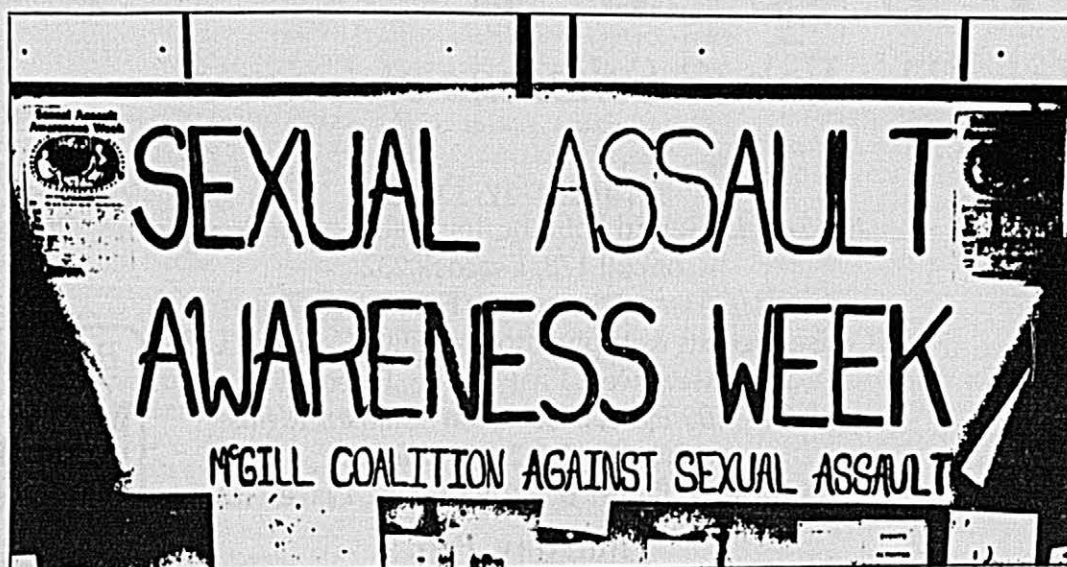
According to VP University Affairs Maria Battaglia, Students' Society (SSMU) organized the campaign because "everyone has problems at some point in their McGill career." Yet "no one reads the green book" which outlines their rights.

Although few people heard the speakers or visited the booths, "at least some people got information on exactly what course of action to take," said Chaim Bell, an organizer.

"Pamphlets were made up that didn't exist before. Now students won't have to go to the green book," added Sujit Choudhry.

However publicizing the rights and measures available to students is only a partial solution. Compared to other Canadian universities McGill's policies leave room for improvement.

The continuing debate over the J grade provides an example. As it stands, students who miss an exam without medical excuse receive a zero. Even after a supplemental



Sexual Assault Awareness Week is underway—check out happenings in the Union.

New environmental group formed

by Linda Gyulai

The World Bank is responsible for the destruction of the world's tropical rainforests, said Mike Kaulbars of the environmental group Friends of the Rainforest (FoR).

Kaulbars, the founder of the Ottawa-based rainforest action group, was at Concordia last Thursday to promote the creation of a similar group in this city.

FoR is specifically concerned with the fate of rainforests in Brazil. But Kaulbars says rainforests worldwide are equally threatened by the ambitions of developed nations.

"We are tied directly to the rainforests," he said. "We haven't left them alone since we discovered them."

One problem, says Kaulbars, is large North American multinationals grow luxury crops in Third

World countries. "They use the best land available to grow sugar or bananas for acres. The idea is to provide crops for us and to make money, not to protect the soil," he added.

FoR is part of the Rainforest Action Network (RAN), an international coalition working for rainforest conservation.

Interest in rainforest conservation was recently sparked by a widely publicized World Bank loan

for development in Brazil.

Brazil's rainforests in the Amazon Basin are threatened by a proposed plan by the Brazilian government to fund a series of 136 dams in the area. The project will result in the flooding and subsequent destruction of the rainforests.

The World Bank will decide in the next two months on a \$500 million loan to the Brazilian energy sector to fund the building of the

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Fraternities play dangerous games

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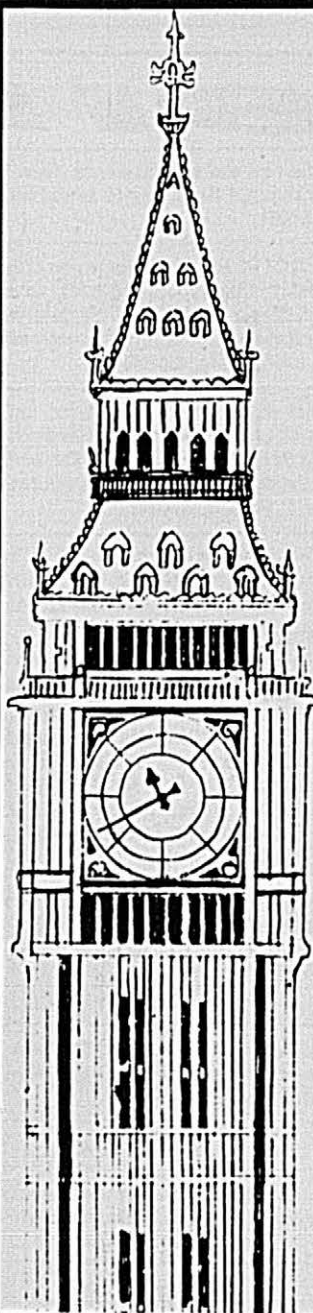
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News

Students to pay more for athletics

Stephane St-Onge

In March students will be asked to renew an annual \$15 fee towards the construction of a new athletics complex at McGill. Students will also be asked to approve extending the construction deadline to June 1, 1991.

The new deadline is seven years past the one initially set upon the conception of the project in 1982.

This will be the second time students are asked to reaffirm the fee and prolong the construction deadline. Since the last fee ratification, neither construction nor extensive renovations have begun. If construction has not begun by the new deadline, the revenue generated so far by student fees will be used to simply renovate existing athletic facilities. The same will happen if students reject the renewed fee in the upcoming referendum.

Director of Athletics at Currie Gym Robert Dubeau said, "It would be a shame, as nothing else would be done for another twenty years."

According to SSMU development negotiator Luc Jolicoeur if students do not renew the fee payment they will be settling for second best.

"If we have the money, something bigger can be built," Jolicoeur said.

Existing facilities were built to accommodate 3500 to 4000 students. Student enrollment has since reached almost 30 000 students. Many intramural and instructional programs limit their enrollment because of this.

"These facilities are inadequate," Dubeau said.

Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) President Nancy Coté said the athletic project fund now contains \$1.5 million. SSMU aims to secure \$4 million in the fund by 1998.

In addition to student money, an estimated \$6 million has been pledged to the project through a McGill Advancement Program (MAP) fundraising drive. Several Montréal foundations have promised MAP donations once construction begins.

The proposed construction site new athletic complex is on city land. The land used to belong to McGill, but was bought, though never used, by the city when it began the construction of the Parc overpass. Conflict between the university and the city has consistently delayed approval from the city for the project.

Jolicoeur said these problems are partially because of the election of the Montréal Civic Movement (MCM) in February 1987.

"The Jean Doré administration started on a bad note with citizen's groups," Jolicoeur said. "Doré's approaches to development and city-planning were, initially, contested by public interest groups thus stalling the planning of a large athletics facility," he said.

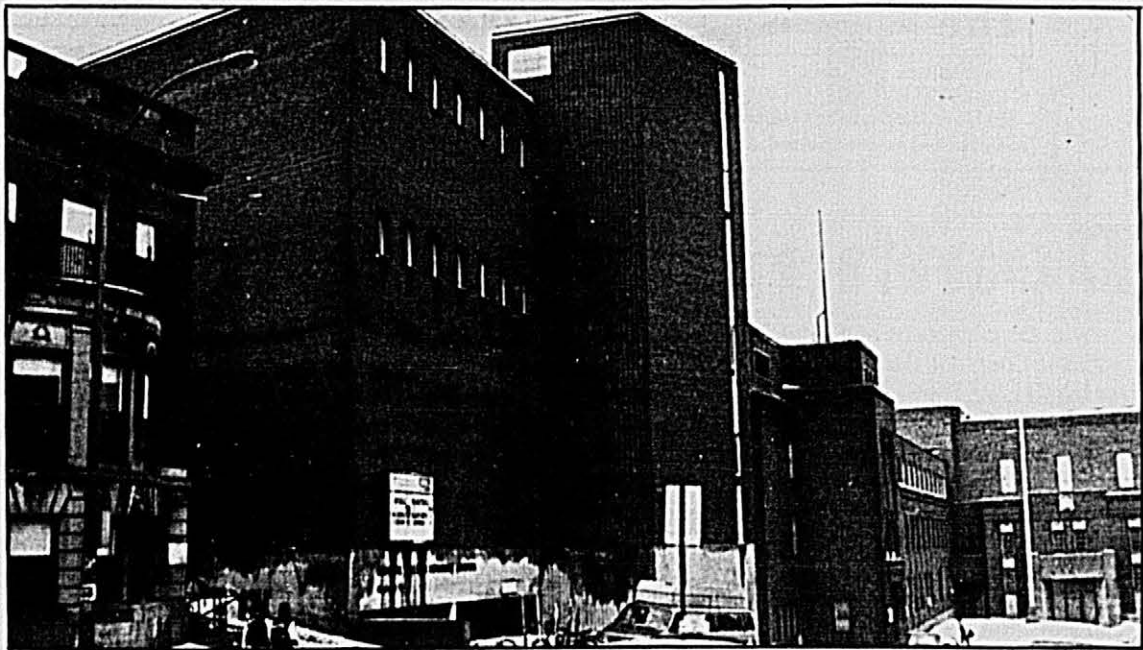
The administration believes the city land remains the best site.

"If the city stalls or refuses the plan, building may be restricted to university property," Dubeau said.

Décarie said, "It's unacceptable to lose an acre of public land in Mount-Royal Park to build a gym for McGill's private use with no benefits to the city in return. Instead, we want to expand and protect the Park."

Jolicoeur said the Joint Committee's goal is to provide facilities which are mutually beneficial to McGill students and the community.

But according to Dubeau, the city is concerned their facilities cannot meet the demands of the community. "The problem lies in the downtown area," says Dubeau. "There is a big void in indoor and



daily photo by Serge Silberman

The new athletics complex will be costly and late.

outdoor facilities for those living in this area, and there is no easy access to other facilities."

Les Amis de la Montagne, a group advocating positive develop-

ment of the mountain, met last week with Jolicoeur to discuss the athletic complex proposals.

"They want to continue discussing the project with the university,

yet so far their reaction has been positive," Jolicoeur said.

"If the Joint committee concludes an agreement on this project, we have a better chance at reaching an agreement on other issues, such as student housing," he said.

According to Décarie, "If all goes well, the Currie Gym phase could begin next fall."

US edge in education may draw students from Canada

by Erin Goodman

HALIFAX (CUP): Canadian universities must resist the pull towards a more competitive system under free trade, says a recently-released report.

The United States spends more money on post-secondary education and produces more graduates—who will take away Canadian jobs, according to *Nova Scotia Universities in the Free Trade Era*.

"They (provincial governments) haven't yet had to recognize where the future lies. If we don't expand our universities who are we going to have in all the professional and managerial jobs in this country? Americans," said John D'Orsay, executive director of the nine-member Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations (NSCUFA), which sponsored the study.

D'Orsay also refers to a Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre report, indicating 73 per cent of the jobs created in Canada since 1981 are classified as managerial and professional—and requiring a university degree. He said Nova Scotia must act quickly to fund the creation of a highly-skilled labour pool in order to compete with the American economy.

The Canada-U.S. free trade agreement came into effect January 1st. It removes or reduces most trade barriers between the two countries.

The NSCUFA study indicates Americans already have the edge in post-secondary education. A 1986 survey shows the proportion of university graduates in Nova Scotia is 10.6 per cent, below the Canadian average of 12.4 per cent and almost half the American average of 19.4 per cent.

Nova Scotia's low proportion of university graduates puts the prov-

ince in league with West Virginia, Arkansas and Kentucky, at the very bottom of the range for the American states.

In addition, an advisory body to the U.S. government has proposed a "Marshall Plan" of educational rejuvenation, a huge injection of money into the public university system. Its goal is to achieve a proportion of university graduates in the adult population of 35 per cent by the year 2000, in order to preserve their "society, economy, democratic values and international leadership."

The guiding principle of U.S. policy is that post-secondary education cannot be left to the free market, states the NSCUFA report. Education in general, and post-secondary education in particular is treated as a public good in the U.S., because market forces alone would produce an insufficient supply of university graduates.

A comparison of operating grants provided for full-time students by the Nova Scotian and U.S. governments reveals Americans

spend much more on post-secondary education.

While each student at St. Mary's University in Halifax receives an operating grant of \$3 400, a student at Alabama State University will receive almost twice that amount. A student at the Technical University of Nova Scotia receives a grant of \$11 086, while one attending the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology will receive \$13 580.

Meanwhile, the Nova Scotia government's record on post-secondary education expenditures is worsening. Fifteen years ago, university operating grants made up 8.63 per cent of total expenditures by the provincial government. Today, only 5.5 per cent of the provincial budget will go to support universities.

According to NSCUFA, returning to the level of support of 15 years ago would require adding \$44.7 million to university operating grants, an amount equivalent to \$1 838 for every student in the province.

Said D'Orsay, "If they continue the practice of not even meeting the (post-secondary funding advisory body) Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission's recommendations for university funding, more than 20 per cent of faculty in the province are going to leave over the next several years."

NSCUFA is recommending the development of a new policy in Nova Scotia, stressing a large increase in provincial funding to ensure accessibility at the province's post-secondary schools.

But D'Orsay doubts the provincial support is there. "The (Conservative John) Buchanan government doesn't plan to do anything," he said. "They'll just wait."

Sexual assault gets hushed up

by Tracy Parris

MONTREAL (CUP): After a student was sexually assaulted in a Vanier College washroom, employees received a memo telling them to keep quiet, according to the school's head of security.

Jean-Pierre Barbeau said the college's secretary-general, Leopold Kurcz, sent a memo to faculty and staff asking them not to talk about the incident.

In early January, a woman was held at knifepoint in a campus washroom and told to perform a sexual act. She screamed, fought the man off and escaped.

A week later, another woman was sexually assaulted at knifepoint when she entered a washroom in a different part of the college.

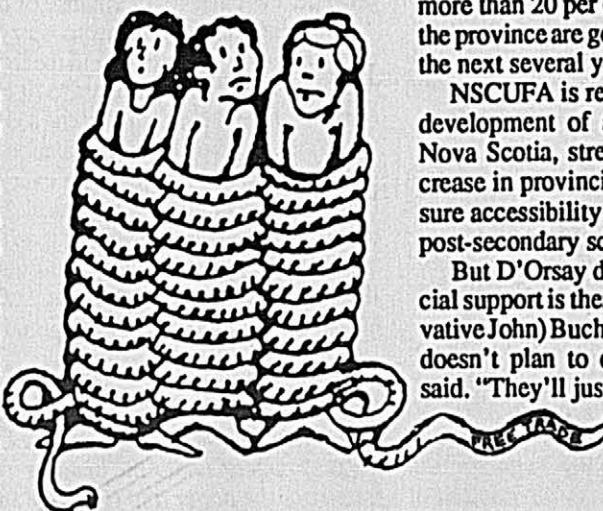
College officials have not warned students or said anything about the incidents.

"The police investigation is going on and I've been told not to discuss it with the media," said Kurcz. "I don't think it's wise to discuss it because we're coming close to the end of the investigation."

Police officer Richard Demers said, "It's also hard for the victim. She has to look at over 6 000 (criminal) photos. We don't want it to be spread around in case other men get the same idea."

"The first girl (sic) was smart and knew what to do. We have a description of the man from the victims and a description from a witness who saw him run out of the washroom," he added.

FUTURE STUDENTS



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Comment

Death penalty returns

With the last echoes of the debate over the reinstatement of capital punishment dying away, the Supreme Court will decide some time in March whether or not to send an American to his death. Joseph Kindler, convicted of murder in the United States, escaped to Canada after being sentenced to the gallows, and is asking the courts to refuse to extradite him unless the States guarantee his life.

While the Canadian government has never shunned away from passively or actively murdering sections of its population, whether they be destitute, black, mentally ill or whatever, two years ago it demonstrated a remarkable glimmer of humanity, or perhaps self-consciousness, when parliament refused to reinstate capital punishment.

Having done that, the Supreme Court has no choice but to demand that the Americans commute Kindler's sentence. Every technique of execution has been outlawed in this country, including the convoluted method which the Canadian government is now proposing. There is no difference between poisoning an evangelist's coffee, and returning a condemned man to his executioner—both are murder by even the most conservative definition.

Yet the governing ideology in Canada is anti-life. It is vehemently opposed to anything which improves the quality of life, and scornful of all that protects it. Refugees fleeing insurmountable poverty are denied entry, while the rich of the Commonwealth, looking for a better job or a change of scene are warmly embraced. Welfare programs across the country are cut deep into the bone, native people are fully ignored in the North, persons with AIDS are abandoned, and the list goes on.

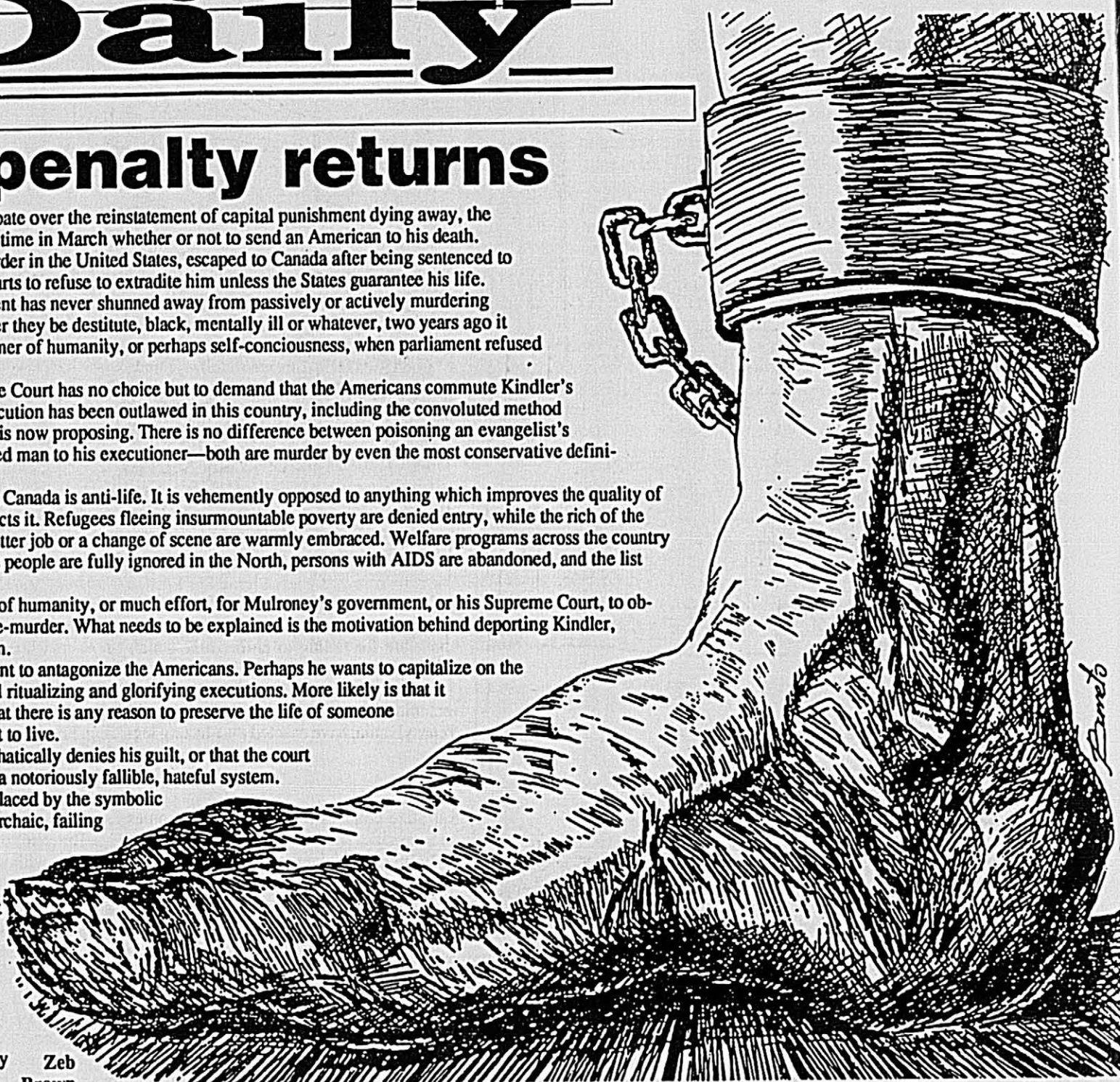
It would not take a great leap of humanity, or much effort, for Mulroney's government, or his Supreme Court, to obstruct the planned American state-murder. What needs to be explained is the motivation behind deporting Kindler, not the reasons for protecting him.

Perhaps Mulroney doesn't want to antagonize the Americans. Perhaps he wants to capitalize on the current trend in the States toward ritualizing and glorifying executions. More likely is that it simply hasn't occurred to him that there is any reason to preserve the life of someone whom America has deemed unfit to live.

Never mind that Kindler emphatically denies his guilt, or that the court which convicted him belongs to a notoriously fallible, hateful system. Kindler's humanity has been replaced by the symbolic function assigned to him by an archaic, failing society looking for scapegoats.

Returning him would set no precedent—the world by now is familiar with Canada's contempt for desperate persons. Refusing to return him, however, would send out the message that people condemned by their societies can find safe refuge here. To suggest that this is a precedent that interests Mulroney is, of course, laughable.

Zeb Brown



Notes from below

Blasting the objective myth



The editors and writers of *The McGill Daily* are being accused of disregarding the allegedly sacred notion of "objective journalism." Numerous letters have cautioned us to report the news in its purest form, without a trace of social criticism, or even aesthetic judgment. But after all the controversy the precise definition of "objective journalism", along with its validity as a prerequisite for responsible reporting of the news, remain unclear.

The popular conception holds that a professional and ethical approach to journalism must involve nothing but straightforward reporting of the news. Any form of deviation from this approach in the form of the expression of a viewpoint or subjective analysis of an event is attacked on the grounds of being "one-sided" and "biased", to mention a couple of the less aggressive remarks.

Why such intolerance? The most probable answer is that the forces of the market have created a superficial image of the media as a mere commodity—"news" to be bought. It is therefore assumed that standard commercial journalism bears no ideological charge. A picture of Reagan on the cover of *Time* represents a clear bias on part of the magazine, but such bias has become a popular and acceptable norm. Any violation of

these conventions by a particular journalist or journal is unreasonably dismissed as unethical and one-sided. And so the cry goes out for "objective journalism".

But objective journalism is meaningless as a phrase and impossible as a practice. No journalist is objective. The answers to questions like "what to report", "when to report", and "how to report" are based on personal values—and so, by trying to be "as objective as possible," a journalist in fact shies away from these values.

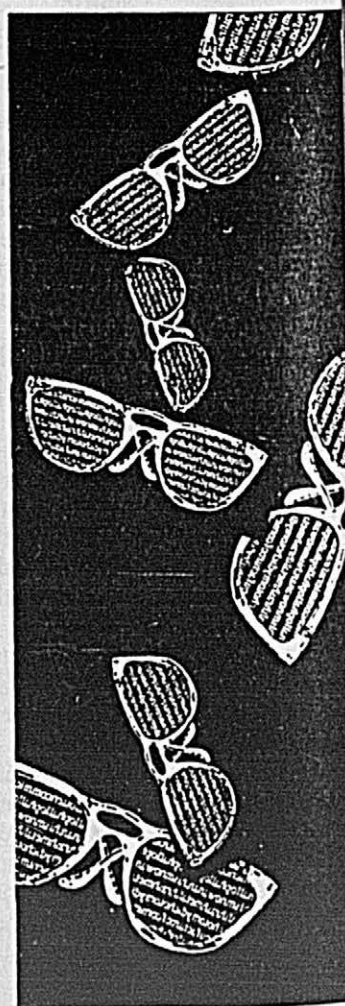
It is the responsibility of journalists to be as upfront and unapologetic as possible about their views—this is what constitutes the basis of journalism in its most active form. To do otherwise, as the mainstream media does, is to narrow the spectrum of permissible debate and to promote the passive acceptance of biased reporting as "the truth."

The *McGill Daily* follows a very clear Statement of Principles which is published every September in the first issue. This statement makes it clear that the *Daily* is not prepared to fit into the popular mold of journalism as commodity and seeks to become something more than merely an information forum for the McGill population. The *Daily* is a biased publication and its biases are clearly stated for everyone to judge.

Passive journalism is unethical. In criticising the work of a journalist, therefore, it is the nature rather than the mere presence of bias which must be assessed. We are willing to answer any questions and acknowledge any shortcomings regarding the nature of our biases. But of the fact that we acknowledge our biases, we are proud.

Mani Haghighi for the McGill Daily

Announcements concerning the *Daily's* operations or messages from the staff appear under the heading 'Notes from below'. It is not a regular feature of the paper and is not the same as a comment or editorial.



Frat dinos play dangerous games

by Michael O'Keeffe and J.M. Rubin
College Press Service

Chuck Stenzel was a student at Alfred University in New York State when he died in 1978 of alcohol poisoning. As part of a fraternity initiation rite, he had been locked into a car trunk and ordered to drink a pint of whiskey, wine and a six-pack of beer.

Ten years later, in early September 1988, Scott Phillips, a University of Texas student, died after he fell 145 metres from a bluff while being chased by two Delta Tau Delta brothers during an initiation.

fraternity Conference (NIC), held in Burlingame, Calif.

The NIC, representing more than 400 000 students on 809 campuses in Canada and in the United States, cannot pass binding resolutions. But it does carry great weight because it reflects the consensus of the fraternities, Executive Director Jonathan Brent says.

One alternative to hazing would be to ask students to become full members immediately after a brief time, skipping the traditional pledge period.

"Despite our best efforts, the hazing and the death continue," says Drury G. Bagwell, president of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and assistant vice-president for student affairs at the University of Maryland. "Our survival is at stake. If we can't eliminate pledging, col-

with a two-by-four.

In the United States, courts, governments and universities have taken turns fighting pledging traditions.

Last October, a Maryland Superior Court awarded \$30 000 in damages to Jeffrey Furek,

Such incidents, which unfolded after years of efforts to stop hazing, left many NIC delegates in Burlingame convinced that only radical reform could stop more schools from dismantling their fraternity systems.

Before initiating them as full members, many fraternity chapters subject their pledges to arcane rituals—much of it harmless, but some of it degrading, dangerous and in some cases deadly.

a former University of Delaware student, for burns he received when Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers poured oven cleaner over his head in 1980. In its ruling, the jury held the school responsible for failing to enforce the state's anti-hazing law.

In addition to Maryland, 27 other states, including Texas, Missouri, Virginia and Pennsylvania, have enacted anti-hazing legislations.

Several schools, including Colby, Amherst, Gettysburg, Middlebury and Castleton State colleges have banned fraternities and sororities from their campuses.

In July, the University of Lowell in Massachusetts abolished the frat system when a pledge went into a coma after being fastened into a sleeping bag and locked for a summer night in an attic with the furnace turned up.

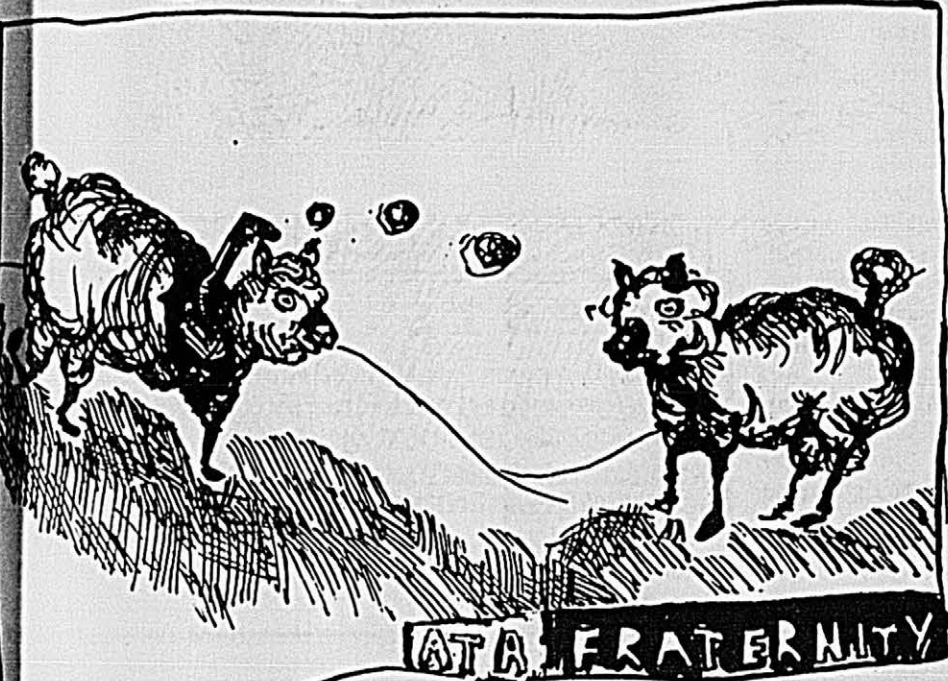
"Pledging has become synonymous with hazing," Tau Kappa Epsilon's Woerpel says. "Our environment is moving against us. If we don't move soon, we will die like the dinosaurs who could not adapt. This is no time to wait and see what happens."

Some are trying. Zeta Beta Tau already has ordered its chapters to eliminate pledging. Fraternities at Tulane University in New Orleans are considering abolishing the pledge process. The Delta Upsilon chapter at the University of Colorado has announced it will set aside its hazing activities.

The NIC's Brant maintains fraternities can live without pledging.

"It was only at the turn of the century that pledging was established. Fraternities existed many years without pledging and we can do it again."

HAZING



Students who join a fraternity are known as "pledges" during a period in which they must prove their fitness to belong to the chapter. Before initiating them as full members, many fraternity chapters subject their pledges to arcane rituals—much of it harmless, but some of it degrading, dangerous and in some cases deadly.

"Pledging has become synonymous with hazing. Our environment is moving against us. If we don't move soon, we will die like the dinosaurs who could not

Between 1978 and 1988, some 41 fraternity pledges have died in the United States during such incidents.

Hoping to end hazing deaths and injuries and afraid they will be banned from many campuses, fraternity leaders say they are considering a radical reform—putting an end to hazing.

In December, the national presidents of 59 fraternities voted to ask their organizations to study alternatives to hazing during the annual meeting of the National Inter-

leges and universities will eliminate it for us."

"The public is fed up with us and universities are fed up with us," says Dwayne Woerpel, a national officer of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

While the national frat presidents—all of whom are no longer students—call for reform, active fraternity members disagree.

"Membership should be earned, not given away," says Delta Tau Delta's Todd Mantz, a senior at Kansas State University. Hazing should be abolished but otherwise the present system is "okay," he says.

"Some chapters have problems with the traditional role of pledges but it's no problem if it's used the right way," says Randall Stevens, president of the University of Kentucky's Phi Kappa Psi.

"Pledging at PKP is a learning process. Pledges learn about their brothers and about participating in the group. Everything is positive."

Hazing incidents are nonetheless reported regularly—they have included assaults, destructive parties and racial insults.

In June, six University of Tennessee Kappa Alpha Psi brothers were charged with assault after beating a pledge with a paddle during an induction ceremony.

In a similar case at North Carolina A&T University, a former student was charged with assault after beating a pledge in the face

by Karen Valihora

Last semester, drunken fraternity pledges threatened a CVC employee and threw beer on another. That same night, pledging sorority women were led through the Union Building blindfolded. The first incident was abusive, the second was illegal.

McGill InterFraternity Council (IFC) president, and Beta Theta Pi brother, Ian Palm says "I would suspect certain fraternities hazing."

The Beta Theta Pi Pledge Manual, *Son of the Stars*, warns potential brothers "a pledge is a selected man. He has the right to expect to be treated as a man, rather than as a child, so long as he conducts himself in manly ways."

The manual tells pledges "[Hazing] is forbidden in our code," and defines it as any activity illegal, morally objectionable, or potentially harmful "such as swimming rivers, jumping from high places, chug-a-lugging, electrical shocks, simulated or actual branding."

The Code includes forced sexual activity, forcing people to drink, kidnapping, harassment, or "any activity without a constructive aspect or purpose," including "not providing a minimum of six hours sleep time during Sunday through Thursday nights."

According to Palm, the McGill IFC Charter "says specifically that if a Fraternity is caught hazing they'll be kicked out of the system."

McGill sororities and fraternities regularly blindfold members and pledges, as

part of initiation ceremonies. Initiation usually lasts a weekend, and pledges and members are required to stay in the house or apartment for the duration.

Blindfolding for long periods of time is a way of disorienting and confusing a person, without resorting to alcohol or drugs.

Palm says the blindfolding, which constitutes hazing, is "a trust activity, they do it on camp nature hikes." Palm says confining people to a house for a weekend is harmless, but adds that if pledges leave they won't be initiated.

Initiation is secret. Part of the reason for keeping everyone in the same place for its duration is to ensure that secrecy. Brothers and Sisters are under oath never to tell about their initiation. So how do you know if a fraternity or sorority is hazing? And what can be done to stop it?

"Of course they're gonna close their doors, keep everything quiet," says Palm. "But people naturally assume that because it's secret, it's bad, which is too bad because it's not."

"I'd like to see a workable procedure to review initiation procedures in fraternities," he says skeptically. "They're private."

Without an independent authority with the power to check up on sororities and fraternities, their traditional secrecy can keep any devastating initiation rites under wraps, until the worst happens.

Some Canadian universities, like Queen's, have outlawed the Greek system from their campuses for this reason.

Hazing at McGill

To the Daily:

I am writing out of concern regarding the incredible rudeness of the class in Religion and Society 260-375B with Gregory Baum. During the lecture there is a constant chatter and rustling and coughing and people consistently leave at ten or even quarter to the hour. This situation is partially due, perhaps, to the size of the class and the fact that the lectures take place in Leacock 132, but in my opinion this situation is unforgivable.

I wonder why, since the class is at 9h00, do people bother getting up for a lecture that they're not even going to listen to? Gregory Baum is one of the best lecturers at McGill and is certainly one of the most widely respected (world-wide) teaching here at the moment. His lectures are interesting and comprehensive and surely if someone is not interested in what he has to say they might have the intelligence to sit quietly or leave, even if it is only out of respect.

I challenge people of my same opinion to not hesitate to tell people who are talking near them to be quiet. Surely we are all adult enough to change the atmosphere of the class. It is not the responsibility of the T.A.'s or the professor to discipline rudeness, it is our responsibility.

It is inconceivable that so rude an attitude can exist at a post-secondary institution. I hope the situation can be changed.

Julia MacRae BA U3
Christine Scott BSc U2



To the Daily:

Leslie Elliot's article 'Death Wishes in Black and White' began with promise: Stephen Shortt's exhibition, "On Britain's Doorstep," is a comment on the political situation in Northern Ireland. Elliot later oversimplifies the complex political situation there by saying that the area is one "turn between two religious factions." The importance of the exhibit, on tour now for three years, was overlooked and Shortt's message diminished by the use of worn out cliché that reduces the Irish question to a mere difference of religions. There is a lot more evident in these photos; that

Letters

is, the exhibit does not lend itself to the oversimplification. The only outright religion is the picture of the Ulster Volunteer Force "Fuck the Pope" slogan spraypainted over the word "Provisionals." Most of the others reveal the result of political manipulation of religious differences, the harsh reality of a police state.

Peter Orr
BA U3



To the Daily:

The meeting of the McGill Student Council of 24 January, 1989 was, like it or not, an historic meeting. Since last fall's resignation of Vice-President External Affairs Marc Cameron, it was the Council's constitutional duty, according to Article 6.5 of the SSMU Constitution, to "elect a replacement (VP External) by and from amongst its members." Regrettably none of the sitting Councillors decided to run for the job.

The big question, obviously, is what to do next. The Constitution does not specify what is to be done under these particular circumstances. While I personally feel uncomfortable with the creation of the External Affairs Co-ordinator, I am not going to judge its constitutionality; that job belongs solely to the judicial board.

While it may not be unconstitutional, the establishment of the External Affairs Co-ordinator in this manner does establish an unfortunate precedent for the future. I will not deny the existence of a problem stemming from Marc Cameron's resignation. I will not deny the need for a solution. My questioning this particular solution to this problem is the appearance of circumventing the Constitution for the sake of convenience. While the appearance of circumvention is not necessarily itself a problem, and while the External Affairs Co-ordinator solution may have been necessary considering none of the sitting Councillors ran for VP External, I fear the solution is a dangerous precedent for it could allow a more serious circumvention of the Constitution at a later date. Any future problem of that sort would be difficult to prosecute before the Judicial Board because of the

precedent just established.

I wish I could propose an immediate solution to avoid a future problem. I unfortunately cannot. I will conclude by proposing for public consideration an amendment to the SSMU Constitution providing for the establishment of co-ordinators with strict guidelines. A campus-wide referendum approval of the co-ordinators, would, in my opinion, end any future constitutional problems of this sort.

Richard Alain Proulx
U2 Arts.

Attention Iris Shestowsky: Your letter is too long. Come down and edit it to 300 words or less and we'll be happy to print it. 'Kay?

... calling for safe abortions

continued from page 1

agrees with this proposal. Loulou says that full accessibility to abortion services is very important and similar measures should be adopted in other Canadian provinces.

"Progress is important outside of Montréal, in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Those people have nothing there. In Québec we are lucky," said Loulou.

Anne Kiss, president of Montréal Pro Life opposes the report's recommendations. "In a society that prides itself on the rights of an individual...there must be a law protecting the human life from conception," she said.

The council stressed the need for professional counselling to help women make an informed decision.

According to the report, "There is an obligation from the abortion facilities to inform women of alternative resources, different methods of abortion and the risks involved, and that women have an examination following the abortion."

Le Conseil advocates family planning and sexual education programs for the increasing numbers of teenage girls confronting unplanned pregnancy. Recent reports show the percentage of abortions performed on young women between 13 and 19 years of age rose 18 per cent since 1983.

"Most of these young women are particularly vulnerable to sexual pressures in a social context where information on sexuality and contraception advice is virtually non-existent," stated the report.

...environmental group formed

continued from page 1

Loan negotiations between the World Bank and the Brazilian government were complicated last year when the nuclear sector in Brazil was incorporated into the energy sector.

There is speculation that Brazil, a hold-out from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that limits the spread of nuclear weapons, will fund the development of nuclear weapons with the World Bank loan.

Brazil is at work on a military program to make it a nuclear power within a few years, according to David Wirth of the National Resources Defence Council in Washington, and Gary Mihollin of the University of Wisconsin's Arms Control Project.

"The problem for the World Bank was that they were getting blamed for the failures of the development projects they funded," said Kaulbars. "So they decided to fund individual sectors rather than a whole system. But then Brazil incorporated its nuclear sector into the energy sector."

"Now the loan has been stalled because Brazil could use some of all of the money for nuclear power and, of course, there's the possibility of building nuclear weapons," he added.

Plans are set for the formation of the rainforest action group in Montréal in the near future. Anyone interested in getting more information on the group should call Paul at 933-4058 or Pat at 272-9276.



EVENTS

Art History Department: Presenting a lecture by Dr. William Morgan, University of Louisville, on the topic 'Finnish Churches: Ecclesiastical Architecture in Landscape and City.' 16h00-17h00. Arts W215.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week: Today's Events:

• 12h00-13h00 Speaker: Toni Braide from Operation Tandem on 'Personal and Home Security.' Lea 232.

• 12h00-13h00 Speaker: Roger Leduc from S.T.C.U.M. on 'Pickpocketing and Assault in the Métro.' Arts Lobby.

• 16h00-17h30 Women-Only Discussion on 'Masturbation and Celibacy.' Union 425/6.

• 19h00 Film: 'Reportage Brésil' and 'Still Killing us Softly.' FDA Auditorium.

• 21h00 Discussion for Men on 'Men and Sexual Assault.' FDA Auditorium.

• 21h30 Candlelight March, a Woman Empowering event. Starts at FDA Auditorium. Pollspeak Week: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon: Mme. Boudreau. Société St. Jean Baptiste. Leacock 232.

1:00-2:00 p.m.: Guy Rivard, Quebec Minister for Bill 101 & 178. MacDonald-Harrington Bldg., Rm. G-10.

2:00-2:30 p.m.: Prof. Velk, Economics, McGill University, speaking on "Get the Government off our backs." Leacock 429.

2:30-4:00 p.m.: Prof. B. Watson, Economics, McGill University and Prof. H. Chomey, Political Science, Concordia University, debate "The Canadian Deficit and Debt." Arts Council Room.

7:00-8:00 p.m.: Mr. Zadoyan, American Sovietologist, speaking on "The Challenge of Kharapagh, Armenia to the Soviet Union." Leacock 26.

Project Ploughshares: (McGill's Peace Group) General Meeting, Newman Centre, 3484 Peel. New meeting time: 6:00 p.m.

Amnesty International: Letter writing meeting, Union 425/426, 7:00 p.m.

McGill Folk Society: Every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. 'til late. Yellow Door, 3625 Aymer. New members welcome. All types of Folk Music.

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CLASSIFIEDS

may be placed through the Daily office, room B-17, Union Building, 15h00. Deadline is 14h00 two days prior to date of publication.

Students: \$3.00 per day; \$7.00 for 3 consecutive days. McGill Faculty and Staff: \$10.00 per day. All others: \$4.50 per day. There is a word limit. There will be a charge of 25¢ per word over the limit. Boxed ads are available at \$4.00 per ad per day - no charge on boxing. EXACT CHANGE ONLY PLEASE.

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to loss. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print classified ad.

341 - APTS., ROOMS, HOUSING

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DAY! Learn how to run your own business. Seminar 2:15 pm. Union Bldg., Room 310, Dent Painters.

352 - HELP WANTED

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367 CARS FOR SALE

CAR FOR SALE - 1979 Cutlass Salon. \$600 (negotiable). Call Salim anytime at 341-4762.

372 LOST & FOUND

Found 1 WINTER SCARF on campus on Tuesday 24th of January call Candelaria at 931-5298.

Whoever "acquired my Walkman/Wallet last Thurs. Jan. 26, at the Currie Gym, please return wallet & cards. Cards all cancelled, ID useless to you, critical to me. Have a heart, save me hassle. Call 284-5499 for details.

FOUND: at student Union Building Friday. GREY MITTENS. Owner call 733-8935.

Lost: gold chain with cross on Thur. Jan. 19. Sentimental value. Reward. Please call 398-9331.

Lost: Thin gold chain bracelet on Fri. Jan. 20th. Please call 626-2434. Reward offered.

Lost black beret and navy blue mitts Wed. 25. beige wallet containing all my IDI Thurs. 26 McConnell, FDA or RVC. Call Heather 284-7768, after 8 p.m.

FOUND: 1 ear ring on University Street, Wednesday Jan. 25. Contact McGill Daily - B-17.

374 - PERSONAL

Need information? Feeling lonely? Just want to chat? Then call McGill Nightline We are students talking to students. 398-6246, 7 days a week, 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Anonymous and confidential.

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388-5164.

385 - NOTICES

ANIMALS: Do they matter? Let's stop the exploitation of our fellow creatures. Meeting and letter writing session this Thursday, February 2, 4:30 p.m. B09, Student Union. Steve 272-5064.

The McGill Journal of Political Studies is calling for papers for its 1988-89 issue. Papers may be submitted in English or French. Leave a photocopy of your essay in the PSSA MAILBOX, in Leacock 443.

Extended deadline February 4th.

387 VOLUNTEERS

Sexually active, heterosexual couples wanted for study of sexual behaviour and attitudes towards computers. Earn \$25! Confidentiality guaranteed. Call Paul, 284-7604, after 5 p.m.

Get to first base, come volunteer at Reddy Memorial. Training for volunteers in all departments starts Feb. 28th. Join our winning team! Call Lynda Benedetti 939-6644.

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U of T professor gets grant for AIDS research

by Berton Ung

TORONTO (CUP): University of Toronto immunologist Tak Mak will lead an international effort to find a cure for AIDS.

Mak will head a group of university and private sector researchers including teams from Harvard, the University of California and two drug manufacturers.

The consortium will receive \$2.5 million over three years from the U.S. National Institute of Health—split equally between the groups—to develop and test new drugs to combat Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The coalition is one of ten to receive funding.

AIDS appears to be caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which cripples the body's protective immune system. The virus, which is found in semen, vaginal fluids and blood, infects a group of cells, called T-helpers, that co-ordinate the body's response to invading organisms. As the T-helper cells die, the patient becomes vulnerable to infections someone with healthy T-helpers could easily fight off. Few persons with AIDS live longer than a few years.

Mak works out of the U of T-affiliated Ontario Cancer Institute. The award-winning scientist is

famous for cloning a T-cell gene in 1984.

AIDS infection is particularly insidious because it can remain dormant inside infected cells for up to ten years. The virus causes the symptoms of AIDS only when activated—but it's not known how that occurs.

"The idea is to develop a chemical that prevents the virus from entering the cell," said Mak.



HIV binds to a protein called CD4 on the T-helper cell surface. CD4 is a receptor which communicates with other cells, and the researchers are trying to prevent the binding of HIV to CD4. Current strategies are to inactivate the virus before it binds, or to modify CD4 so that the virus can't bind.

Mak's group will also develop

methods to screen potential drugs, and determine their effectiveness. Partner Allelix Biopharmaceuticals of Mississauga, Ontario, will have the right to mass-produce any drugs the Mak consortium can prove safe.

Allelix is known for its expertise in protein engineering, and the Baltimore-based Nova Pharmaceuticals is experienced in drug screening.

In other university-related AIDS research, university-affiliated or teaching hospitals in Halifax, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver are already conducting drug tests on patients.

Half of the 80 subjects are taking the drug aerosolized pentamidine (AP) to treat AIDS-related pneumonia. The others, all of whom

have one bout of life-threatening pneumonia behind them, get a placebo, or sugar pill.



After six months, the results will be compared to see whether AP prevents or treats pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, a major cause of

death among AIDS patients. But the drug is already widely-used in the United States.

The Toronto lobby group AIDS Action Now says it's unethical to deny patients in life-threatening situations a drug which is already in use.

"Indeed, there is every reason to believe that some individuals in the placebo arm of the trial will die (of pneumonia) before the study is completed," states a letter sent to the University of Toronto last term.

But U of T said the subjects are better off because they have access to the drug, rather than having to travel to the United States. Vice president of research Jim Keffer said placebo patients who show signs of pneumonia are put on AP immediately.

D BOARD OF DIRECTORS
P MEETING
S Monday, Feb. 6, 1989
See Kim in B-17 for agenda

Anti-Racism Special Issue

The McGill Daily's annual Meeting for anyone interested in bringing your ideas to Union B-03. It can be the first thing you do for The Daily!

Against racism. Today at 17h00.